

<i>Agriculture Emergency Response Training (AGERT)</i> <i>September 8-10, 2004</i>	
Location	<p>Center for Domestic Preparedness, Anniston, Alabama</p> <p><i>The Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP), unit of the Office of Domestic Preparedness, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is charged with training emergency responders to deal with weapons of mass destruction and incidents involving hazardous materials, including biological and disease hazards.</i></p>
Course Purpose	<p>AGERT is the product of an intensive collaborative effort between the CDP and APHIS to support the development and delivery of agriculturally specific emergency response training. The APHIS/CDP relationship is one of several USDA action steps to improve upon USDA's initiatives to securing America's agricultural bounty.</p> <p>The purpose of this training is to give selected individuals from all across APHIS the opportunity to learn and practice together to improve readiness to recognize, react and recover from agricultural disease events. USDA-APHIS personnel will learn and practice in a "hands-on" environment to gain valuable knowledge and experience in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) awareness - Including Biological and Agricultural Disease Agents • National Incident Management System (NIMS)/National Response Program (NRP)/Incident Command System (ICS) Awareness • Overview of Federal Policies – Homeland Security Presidential Directives • Risk Assessment • PPE Selection • PPE Donning and Doffing procedures • Decontamination – Personal and Vehicular • Medical Triage • Secondary WMD Site Hazards Awareness <p>This course is consistent with the recently released Homeland Security Presidential Directive No. 9 (HSPD-9), which directs the Secretaries of homeland Security and Agriculture to prepare their Departments and the Nation to respond to natural, accidental, and deliberate agricultural disease events.</p>

Target Audience	<p>APHIS animal and plant health personnel who perform routine and non-routine site investigations (i.e., for a suspected foreign animal disease/emerging disease incident), as well as other personnel who may provide incident command system response to an animal or plant disease emergency. To attend this course, participants must::</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet medical and physical requirements in accordance with OSHA Standard 29 CFR 1910.120, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response. • Complete the APHIS PPE and Biosecurity Online Training Courses
Time Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 – 6 hours of online pre-course, self-paced study (PPE and Biosecurity Lessons) • 3 days of onsite training
Cost	Travel costs only
Contact	<p>Mr. Raymond Francis, VS/PDS (301) 734-0023 (o); (301) 529-6166 Raymond.C.Francis@aphis.usda.gov</p>
Nominations	This course is by invitation only.
Nomination Deadline	N/A